

REMARKS

I. Election

Applicant affirms the election to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-22 without traverse, in this application. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional patent application to prosecute the non-elected invention of Group II.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 12-14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,155,277 to Barry. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 12-14 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,117,995 to Connard, III. Applicant has amended the claims to recite allowable subject matter as defined by the examiner and set forth below. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to further prosecute the rejected subject matter.

III. 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 10, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barry and Connard, III in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,927,461 to Jamieson. Applicant has amended the claims to recite allowable subject matter as defined by the examiner and set forth below. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to further prosecute the rejected subject matter.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant has amended claims 4, 11 and 15 to recite subject matter deemed allowable by the examiner. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to further prosecute the rejected subject matter. New claims 24-28 are patterned after canceled dependent claims, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 14, respectively, requiring the proper dependency and order.

V. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and,

accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Should any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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